

REMARKS

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

Claims 7-10, 15-17 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement.

Claims 7 and 8 were rejected as reciting the ends of the mandrel legs as connected to a tubular connective member or a hollow tube. The claims have been amended herein to recite the legs as connected to a base rod, structure language specifically supported by the specification. Given that the basis for the rejection is new but the language (hollow tube) that provides the basis for the rejection was presented previously, Applicants submit that its request for entry of the subject amendment should be granted.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7 and 8 have been amended to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as set forth in the Office Action, and are indicated to be allowable in light of such amendment.

Claims 9, 10, 15-17, and 19 are indicated to present allowable subject matter. However, the Examiner has rejected such claims under 35 USC 112 as unsupported by the specification. Applicants respectfully disagree. The specification is specifically clear that the base rod to leg connection is adjustable in order to vary the location of the legs to each other. See, for example, page 2, line 14 et. seq. Moreover, on page 7, lines 31 et seq., it is recited:

At least one end of the rod is threaded, with the threads extending a substantial distance along the length of the rod. The leg 12 or 14 to be mounted at the threaded end is secured to a threaded nut and then the leg 12 or 14 is threaded onto the rod to the desired position and locked into place with a locking nut. The remaining leg 14 or 12 may likewise be secured to the other end of the rod if both ends of the rod are threaded, or the leg 14 or 12 may be fixedly secured to the other end of the rod by means such as welding or other known securing techniques. The distance between the legs may be quickly changed, by varying the distance upon which the leg 12 or 14 is threaded onto the rod, to form a new configuration or one or both legs 12, 14 may be quickly replaced with a leg of a new configurations to achieve a new hose configuration.

The connection along a rod that is threaded a substantial distance clearly allows for a rotation of the leg 12 or leg 14 (or both) around the rod in a 360 degree sweep. The specification specifically envisions one or both legs can rotationally move in a circular (i.e. lateral direction) relative to the rod and relative to the opposite leg. The distance between the legs is thus changed and the rods may form a plurality of new configurations pursuant to the needs of the user. Thus, there is support for the language of claims 9, 10, 15-17, and 19. Applicants have amended the claims above to delete the use of the term "lateral" in deference to recitation of the rotational adjustment specifically recited in the specification. In view of the clear and specific support in the specification for such a rotational adjustment capability between the legs 12, 14, Applicants submit that the claims are in full compliance with 35 U.S.C. 112.

In view of the amendments made above and the Examiner's indication that such claims would be allowable in view of such amendments, entry of the amendments and allowance of all pending claims 7-10, 15-17, and 19 be granted.

Respectfully submitted,



Richard B. O'Planick – Reg. No. 29,096
Attorney for Applicants

The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
Department 823
1144 East Market Street
Akron, Ohio 44316-0001
Telephone: (330) 796-5240
Facsimile: (330) 796-9018